

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI

*Council Member
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 18, 2015

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 169 which expresses support of further discussion on the possibility of local ownership and control of electric utilities..

The proposed NextEra Energy acquisition of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., will have long lasting impacts on the economic stability and social fabric of our communities.

The Hawai'i Island Energy Cooperative is a group of Hawai'i Island community and business leaders exploring different public ownership opportunities for Hawai'i's electric utility service. I strongly request the passage of this Resolution to further the discussion of providing more options for those impacted the most, our kama'āina.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Onishi", written over a horizontal line.

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi
Hawai'i County Council Member

IBEW1260

BRIDGING THE PACIFIC

March 19, 2015

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee, The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1260 (IBEW) respectfully offers the following comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 169 / House Resolution No. 105 (HCR169 / HR105).

As the legal bargaining agent for the majority of Hawaii's electric utility workers, and considering the importance these workers play in supporting Hawaii's middle class; the IBEW believes it is incumbent upon the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission to consider and protect Hawaii's workers during any decision making process regarding Hawaii's electric utility industry.

Additionally, the IBEW would like to thank Vice Chair Lowen for this recognition and consideration in HCR 169 / HR105, as well as her continued support of Hawaii's workers.

Respectfully,



Michael M. Brittain
Director of Legislative Affairs
& Business Development
IBEW Local 1260

EEPtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:35 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: chris@hfbf.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR105 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

HR105

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Indigenous Consultants, LLC

Mililani B. Trask, Principal

P.O.Box 6377 ❖ Hilo, HI 96720

Mililani.trask@gmail.com



Bill: HR 105: Support Local Ownership of Electric Utilities

Date: March 19, 2015

Place: Room 325

Time: 8:30 am

Committee: EEP

Aloha Legislators,

Indigenous Consultants (IC) is a Hawaii based, indigenous LLC owned and operated by Native Hawaiians. It was created to assist indigenous peoples in developing their renewable energy resources in ways that are: Culturally appropriate, environmentally green and sustainable, socially responsible and economically equitable and affordable. For several years the IC has worked with Innovations Development Group in New Zealand and indigenous Maori developing geothermal resources, which are trust assets of Maori Land Trusts. In addition, the IC has acted as a consultant to other indigenous people in Hawaii and Asia who are addressing development of their trust renewable energy resources in ways that; directly benefit their people, bring in revenues, create small business opportunities and ensure fair & affordable rates to consumers, including themselves and their communities.

Indigenous Consultants strongly supports this measure. For many years the island of Kauai has had a Co-op utility owned by their community. Recently, the residents, businesses, farmers & ranchers of Hawaii Island formed the Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative to explore public ownership of a Hawaii Island Utility expressly created to oversee & develop energy self sufficiency for Hawaii Island. This effort has been spurred by the plan of HELCO, HEI and NEXTERA to expand the State energy utility monopoly by facilitating a corporate acquisition between NEXTERA and HELCO/HEI. The focus on the merger has been increasing corporate profits and control rather than upgrading the grid, adopting reliability standards and addressing rising costs of fuel.

This measure keeps the door open for Hawaii Island & its communities that want to pursue a different path, a path that has as its primary concern & priority, energy stability and self-sufficiency for Hawaii.

Please support this measure. Regards,

Mililani B. Trask – Indigenous Consultants LLC

EEPttestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 7:02 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR105 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

HR105

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this resolution, as it has EMPOWERMENT written all over it. To be specific, it EMPOWERS the PEOPLE of this State to take stock in their own utilities! Please pass this resolution.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:35 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: jonnyhayes@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR169 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

HCR169

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Hayes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the concept and further discussion about forming an energy cooperative for Hawaii Island. I believe Hawaii Island can follow the model set out by progressive countries such as Germany, where the energy model is moving toward on a distributed storage network.

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EEPttestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:39 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mmcardle19@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR169 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

HCR169

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peggy McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HCR169. Mahalo.

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EEPttestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 1:49 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: chris@ponoholo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR105 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

HR105

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher English	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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EEPttestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:34 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: ed.j.wagner@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR105 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

HR105

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ed Wagner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: "WHEREAS, the pending sale of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., to Florida-based NextEra Energy has spurred public interest in examining different ownership schemes for Hawaii's electric utility service; and" This is an incredibly weak-worded resolution starting with the first incorrectly worded clause. Discussion about local ownership and control of the HECO monopoly has been ongoing at the Legislature for the past 30 years so why do you want FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES. except to continue stalling the process to protect and perpetuate the HECO monopoly for another 100 years? The public is DEMANDING public power NOW, not 30 or 100 years from now! A few years ago, KUOKOA tried to buyout the HECO monopoly. The public was hoping that the effort would succeed then, and they want the Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative (HIEC) to succeed now. The proposed financial and management bailout of our incompetent and fraudulent utility monopoly by an even more ruthless and abusive monopoly, Nextera, is not even relevant because the public wanted community owned power long before Nextera came on the scene. You forget that Kauai has a co-op, and there are hundreds of successful utility co-ops all over the country. Bolder, CO is successfully converting its for-profit utility, Xcel Energy, to municipal power. Representatives of Bolder will be attending the Maui Energy Conference on March 25-27, presumably to share their experience wit the effort. Perhaps you should attend that conference. Bolder did all the work so those folks are our starting point to convert HECO to public power. Watch this short Capitol TV video from January 29, 2013, and learn. Toward the end, former HECO Executive VP, Robbie Alm, now involved in incestuous ties with Governor Ige as his inner circle advisor, states very clearly for the record that HECO will cooperate fully with its conversion to community owned, public, non-profit power. What more do you need or want? It is time to hold HECO's feet to the fire and convert it to public power NOW! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yi2LCylzvQM> Stop wasting time and taxpayer money on another 30 years of discussion and just get the job done for the people NOW!

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EEPtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:49 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: richard@hamakuasprings.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR105 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

HR105

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Ha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and Members. I strongly support the reso to look into the possibility of a member owned and controlled energy co operative. This form of business is a non profit and so no taxes are due. Any excess revenue can go toward owners equity or as a rebate to the members. Because the entity is controlled by members who have electric meters, this is a very simple example of Home Rule. We are not alone. There are 900 electricity co ops in the nation. These co ops own their own finance company which is a non profit too so there are no taxes. The 900 member association of co ops have extensive member support facilities. The co op business model makes a local co op part of a large national association of co ops, instead of one company alone in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

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EEPtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:14 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: rsmith@lanihau.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR105 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

HR105

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Riley Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this measure. Hawaii island pays one of the highest power rates in the nation. If we are allowed to follow KIUC's lead, we can be responsible/manage our own energy future.
Riley Smith

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Walter W Barnes
5782 Ahakea St
Kapaa, HI 96746

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of HR105

I strongly support HR105 and urge its adoption with minor amendment to better express its intent.

I am a former and founding member of the Board of Directors of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative. KIUC and the other 900 electric co-ops nationwide provide clear evidence of the superiority of the cooperative model for electric utilities.

When the consumers, we call them members, are the owners then the utility's direction will be set and decisions will be made in the best interest of the consumer.

Contrast this with the for-profit, investor-owned-utility model where shareholder interests set direction and decision-making. In spite of the best intentions of regulators, it is management decisions made to increase shareholder value that ultimately drive rates and determine service for IOUs.

We need look no further than our own experience here in Hawaii to see the superiority of the cooperative model.

Prior to co-operative ownership of Kauai's utility, our electric rates and HEI's various electric rates increased over time in very similar proportions. There was no magic rate decrease when KIUC took over because so many decisions were locked-in, but over time the very different approaches to decision making and strategic direction have had significant impact: today KIUC rates are stable while HEI's rates are constantly increasing. This difference isn't something you can legislate; it isn't something the PUC can regulate. IOU decision making inherently views the ratepayer as inconsequential. Maximizing shareholder value is the legal, fiduciary responsibility of the IOU's Board of Directors. Instead, when consumers are co-op members who elect their own Board of Directors whose legal, fiduciary obligation—their whole outlook—is about maximizing value for member-owner-consumers.

Beyond rates compare how KIUC treats roof-top photovoltaic with how HEI treats it. KIUC has the same technical challenge integrating rooftop PV as HEI—probably a harder challenge since Kauai's smaller grid could be more easily destabilized. But instead of blocking consumer rooftop PV like HEI, KIUC welcomes it precisely because the co-op consumers asking to be interconnected are also the owners of the co-op. The tone from the top, from Board of Directors to CEO to engineer to lineman is "Let's figure out how to do this." KIUC's national recognition as the utility with the highest penetration of PV is no accident—it is a direct result making decisions to benefit our member-owner-consumers.

Another example of the superior results of cooperative decision making is the progressive strategic plan KIUC adopted and has steadily achieved. KIUC led the way within the state with the most ambitious goals

for integrating renewable energy generation—even when Kauai is challenged by being prohibited from deploying utility-scale wind and has no geo-thermal resource. KIUC set its ambitious plan precisely because our member-owner-consumers said it was what they wanted.

I note the current language of HR105 is ambiguous in that there could be other kinds of “local” ownership and control, for example private ownership, which would not deliver any of the value of co-op ownership. I respectfully suggest the language around line 21 of the resolution instead specify “...to facilitate rural electric cooperative ownership”. Within the industry “Rural Electric Cooperative” is the specific term used for the local ownership and control intended by HR105.

Cooperative ownership is without question superior to an investor-owned utility and I urge you to adopt HR105.

Sincerely,
Walter Barnes

LATE

**Legislative Testimony
In SUPPORT of SB1047 SD1**

**RHONDA ROLDAN
Private Citizen**

**House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, March 19, 2015
8:30 p.m. Conference Room 325**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB1047 SD1, authorizing the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Pelatron Q, LLC, with development of waste-to-energy power plants in Hawaii.

Pelatron Q offers sustainable solutions for the generation of renewable energy and waste management through the development of waste-to-energy power plants. Their scalable solution utilizes the patented Solena plasma gasification and vitrification process to convert any carbonaceous matter, including municipal solid waste, plastic, rubber, agricultural waste, and industrial waste into renewable energy.

The development of these waste-to-energy power plants will contribute to the State's energy security, reduce the State's carbon footprint, reduce the environmental impact of landfilling waste, and add living-wage jobs to the State's economy.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to SUPPORT SB1047 SD1.

RHONDA ROLDAN
rhondar8@gmail.com
(808)398-2374

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 6:51 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: shane.nelsen@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR169 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

LATE

HCR169

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Nelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 5:06 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: ttravis12@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR105 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM



HR105

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Travis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Their are no more important questions for the people of Hawaii than how their energy is generated, how it is distributed, how much energy reliability is realized, how the environment is impacted, and how the community is influenced. Each of these issues is front and center in discussions about the proposed merger of the HECO companies and NextEra. I support this resolution, because it draws attention to alternate approaches as to how the State and each Island should move ahead. These alternate approaches include one by Paniolo Power, an approach that could provide community friendly, renewable power at a reduced cost. With a cooperative on the Big Island, the people of the Big Island would be in charge of their own destiny, taking advantage of proposals like Paniolo Power. Additionally a cooperative would return utility profits from the Big Island to customers on the Big Island.

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EEPtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 7:44 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR169 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

LATE

HCR169

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aaron S. Y. Chung
Council Member
District 2 South Hilo



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Fax No.: (808) 961-8912
aaron.chung@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

LATE

Date: March 23, 2015

To: Representative Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Aaron S. Y. Chung, Council Member
Hawai'i County Council

RE: HCR169/HR105 - EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION
ON THE POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF
ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

Aloha Representative Lowen:

Thank you for your leadership in seeking ownership alternatives for our Hawai'i Island utility services. I would like to join you in expressing my strong support for the adoption of HCR169 and HR105. The formation of the Hawai'i Island Energy Cooperative (HIEC) gives our community a real chance at having a hand in the decisions which affect the energy future of the Big Island.

I personally have a better level of comfort with the notion of a locally-owned utility company rather than one controlled by a mainland-based mega corporation whose primary motives are profit driven. Although I confess not knowing all of members of the cooperative, the ones that I do know are high character individuals that are respected as much for their business acumen as they are for their community-mindedness and integrity. It is my understanding that their business plan contemplates a stable transition which will not involve changing the physical plant and infrastructure or present contracts. Of particular interest and importance to our residents, though, is the reasonable possibility that local ownership of the utility may result in lower electricity costs islandwide.

I support the idea of providing HIEC with the opportunity to take their seats at the table to provide HELCO users with benefits of a locally-owned, not-for-profit utility. The vision of lower utility costs, innovative technology and forward thinking to benefit the rate-payers is something that we must explore.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share some of my thoughts on HCR 169 /HR105. I join many others on the Big Island in support of the Hawai'i Island Energy Cooperative initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. Chung", written over a horizontal line.

Aaron S. Y. Chung, Council Member
Hawai'i County Council